P. O. Box 829
Carlsbad, New Mexico
December 13, 1960

MINE INSPECTION REPORT
JACKPILE MINE
UNITED PUEBLO AGENCY
LAGUNA PUEBLO RESERVATION

Confidential Claim Retracted
Authorized by: SC
Date: 6/12/13

by
James W. Hager
Mining Engineer

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
BRANCH OF MINING OPERATIONS
CONSERVATION DIVISION

On December 7, 1960, the Jackpile mine on the Laguna Indian Reservation was examined. The mine is operated by the Anaconda Corporation and is located 8¼ miles north of Laguna, Valencia County, New Mexico. The mine is serviced by a spur of the Santa Fe Railroad. Mr. J. P. Herndon was mine superintendent, Mr. F. J. Balintine was assistant mine superintendent. The last examination of the mine by engineers of this office was May 25, 1960.

The original lease was issued May 7, 1952 and covered 799.09 acres. Amendments dated September 9, 1954 and November 27, 1955 increased the acreage to 3,679.09. Plans have been made to exercise the option to lease more land covered by the existing prospecting permit. A large ore body has been discovered and drilled out near the village of Puquate, about three miles west of the Jackpile mine.

In the fall of 1952 the first ore was mined from development drifts at the Jackpile mine. During the first three years of the lease, 1952 to 1955 a little over 75,000 tons of ore were produced from development and exploration work at the Jackpile and Woodrow mines. Stripping of the overburden at the Jackpile orebody was carried on at the same time under contract with Isabell Construction Company. In 1956 the mine started full production. To July 1, 1960 the operation produced 4,785,000 tons of ore valued at $74,348,000 with royalties paid the Laguna Pueblo of $6,462,000. A total of almost 70,000,000 tons of waste, ore, and sub-ore has been mined since operations started. About 1,700,000 tons of sub-ore has been stockpiled near the pit. The sub-ore is divided into stockpiles that assay from 0.08% U_3O_8 to 0.14% U_3O_8. This sub-ore is blended with high grade from the pit, when possible, to make a consistant mill feed of 0.20% U_3O_8.

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The ore occurs in the Westwater sandstone of the Morrison formation as irregular, flat lying lenses of medium grained sandstone ranging in color from yellowish-gray to black depending on the amount of carbonaceous material contained. The overburden averaged 115 feet thick grading from a few feet to the southern portion to over 400 feet in the north.

The company has instituted an over all safety program administrated by the safety engineer Mr. John Sabo. Each employee receives a booklet on general safety and one on safety on his particular job. When the mine has worked for thirty days without a lost time accident prizes are given away at safety meetings. On date of examination the mine had worked 92 days with out a lost time accident. Safety meetings are held each week in the new safety hall recently completed. All supervisors have been trained in first aid.

The mine produces about 3,000 tons of ore daily, 5,000 tons of sub-ore stockpiled at the pit, and about 35,000 tons of waste. No changes in ore or waste handling techniques had been instituted since date of last inspection. Blasting in the waste was by commercially packaged ammonium nitrate. The ore was blasted by ammonium nitrate that had been mixed with diesel oil. The fertilizer-grade ammonium nitrate is mixed with the oil in the bag and allowed to age 24 hours before it is used. All drills were equipped with water attachments and large line oilers to lubricate the drill bits and help alloy the dust.

No safety violations ~~are~~ or violations of the lease terms were noted on date of examination.

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Orig. to: Supt., United Pueblo, Albuquerque
cc: Comm., Office of Indian Affairs, Washington
: Chief, Branch of Mining Operations
: Bureau of Mines, Denver
: Files